

Enterprise Institute military escalation plan for Iraq, which is the basis for the President's proposals, has a timeline of 18–24 months, conveniently enough leaving the mess in Iraq for the next President, meaning President Bush would never have to admit his policies in Iraq have been a failure but at a very steep cost to our troops taxpayers.

The administration already increased the number of U.S. troops in Baghdad this summer and has occasionally increased the number of troops throughout Iraq, yet the violence against our troops and Iraqi security forces and civilians continues to increase. Following the influx of troops this summer in Operation Forward Together, the violence in Iraq actually increased. Weekly attacks increased by 15 percent while the number of Iraqi civilian casualties increased by 51 percent.

Based on historical analysis, counterinsurgency experts estimate it takes around 20 U.S. troops per 1,000 inhabitants to successfully fight a counterinsurgency. To achieve that ratio in Baghdad alone would require 120,000 troops. Even with the escalation proposed by the President, we'd only have around 40,000 troops in Baghdad. For all of Iraq, it would require 500,000 troops. We only have around 140,000 there today.

General Shinseki and others based their original recommendation for several hundred thousand troops on this historical analysis. But, the time in which a large number of forces could stabilize Iraq has long since passed.

The bottom line is that a proposal to increase U.S. troop levels in Baghdad or Iraq more generally by 30,000 troops in not a serious effort to restore stability to Iraq. Essentially, the President is proposing to put more lives at risk with little or no chance of success.

The President and his allies justify the continuing U.S. presence in Iraq by claiming that if we don't fight there, we'll have to fight here at home. However, the Iraqi Sunni rejectionists, Saddamists, and nationalist Shias, who combined make up the vast bulk of the insurgents and militias committing violence in Iraq, have no interest in attacking the U.S. homeland. They just want U.S. military forces out of their own country. They have no designs on our country. So it is misleading, at best, to argue that if we don't fight there, we will fight them in the streets of the United States.

It is also misleading to pretend that if the U.S. leaves that somehow Osama bin Laden will take control of Iraq. There is no chance that the Shias and Kurds, who represent around 80 percent of the population in Iraq, will allow foreign terrorist elements to take over the country. Even the majority of the Sunnis have grown tired of foreign terrorists operating in Iraq.

A better strategy is to announce a timeline for bringing our troops home over the next 6 months to a year. The administration has always set timelines for political developments in Iraq—for elections, for the drafting of the constitution etc. The administration argued such timelines were necessary to focus the energy of Iraq's leaders and to force compromises. We need to do the same on the military side.

In the interim, I have also proposed that U.S. troops be removed from front line combat positions in Iraqi cities and towns, turning over daily security patrols, interactions with citizens,

and any offensive security actions to the Iraqis themselves.

The training and equipping of Iraqi security forces should be accelerated and the sectarian balance must be improved.

The U.S. must renounce any U.S. interest in constructing permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq.

It is also important to accelerate reconstruction spending and grant the bulk of reconstruction contracts to local companies employing Iraqis rather than multinational corporations, whom have proven inefficient, inflexible, sometimes fraudulent and have even imported workers rather than employing Iraqis.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad should also be reduced to normal size and authority rather than establishing one of the largest embassies in the world.

And, the U.S. must engage in robust diplomacy with all factions in Iraq, except the foreign terrorists and domestic al-Qaeda elements, and work with Iraq's neighbors in an effort to bring about political reconciliation among Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds.

Our troops have done all that has been asked of them in Iraq. Saddam Hussein is dead. His allies are on the run or in prison. The threat from WMDs in Iraq is nonexistent. Arguably, the war that Congress authorized has been won. Our troops should come home. Congress did not authorize U.S. troops to referee a civil war in Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON STANGEBY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allison Stangeby—the recipient of the 2006 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Because of Allison's efforts, thousands of our nation's less fortunate have been provided with food aid.

Allison used her workplace as a tool to reach out to the hungry. She works for the New York Giants as the Director of Community Relations. Under Allison's leadership, the New York Giants became the first sports franchise to arrange to have its stadium-generated leftover concession food made available to feed the hungry through Sports Wrap. Sports Wrap is a new venture that evolved from Rock and Wrap It Up!, a volunteer hunger relief charity started in 1990.

Additionally, Allison has helped launch similar programs with the New York Yankees, New York Mets, New York Jets and New Jersey Nets. By setting an example, Allison has empowered others to reach out to those in need. This is the mark of a great volunteer.

This is the vision my late husband Bill Emerson had for domestic food aid programs when he worked to pass the Good Samaritan Food Act protecting these donations from liability. Bill's hopes for hunger relief in America were very high when he worked to make such programs possible in 1990. He would be very proud of Allison for her contributions to hunger relief.

Allison is a major reason why this hunger relief charity continues to gain notoriety and grow. As long as there are men, women and children who need the helping hand of other

Americans, people like Allison have proven they will be there with a helping hand to offer.

Thank you for your kind service to our Nation, Allison. Congratulations on earning the 2006 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Best of luck to you as you continue your noble work.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida football team on winning the 2006 NCAA national championship.

Madam Speaker, as a University of Florida graduate, born in "Gator Country," I could not be happier with the outcome of last night's game. This team showed true grit and grace by overcoming public opinion, which said they did not belong in the national title game, to defeat a daunting opponent.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the University of Florida as a whole for becoming the first institution in Division 1 history to hold both the NCAA Men's Basketball and NCAA Football Championships at the same time. Last night's achievement was truly historic.

Madam Speaker, it took the University of Florida 90 years to win its first NCAA Football Championship and only 10 to win its second. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Madam Speaker, I hope everyone will join me in congratulating these fine young men on their historic victory.

HONORING BEN ANDERSON OF AMERICAN CANYON, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. Thompson of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Anderson of American Canyon, California, and thank him for his many years of service devoted to the city and people of American Canyon. As a member of the first city council elected in 1992, Ben Anderson has generously lent his wisdom and guidance to the process of constituting a city government.

Mr. Anderson moved to the area in the early 1980s as an officer in the US Navy at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. In the early 1990s he was instrumental in beginning the petition process and collecting signatures for the incorporation of American Canyon. Having received encouragement from other citizens involved in the campaign, he ran for a seat on the city council and won. He retired from service in the Navy around the same time he took his seat on the council, citing his desire to devote his efforts to full time service to the community.

During his 14 years as a council member Mr. Anderson has helped guide the development of American Canyon from its infancy into the rapidly growing and successful town we